

# Walton Church



Walton Church is one of two redundant churches in the Ecumenical Parish that makes up Walton Churches Partnership. Walton Churches Partnership includes congregations who meet in churches at Kent's Hill, Middleton and Wavendon.

Walton is a post-Domesday village, first recorded in 1189. The present church building dates from around 1350, with the tower, in Perpendicular style, being built about 50 years later.

The church includes a number of memorials, largely to the owners of Walton Hall, the Beales, Pinfolts, Harleys and the Earle families. The Art Deco wall paintings are by Primrose Roper (1908-78), whose memorial plaque is inside the church.

Services were held here until December 8 1974, with Harvest Festival particularly well known. Congregations from five villages would join together here, and, at one of the last of these services, the OU's Dean of Arts gave the address. In 1975 the church was declared redundant and was taken on lease by the Open University. Following extensive renovation, the church was re-opened with a concert on November 23 1978. During the restoration, archaeological excavations found fragments of medieval stained glass (from c 1400), floor tiles from about 1500 and part of a twelfth century font. They also found some evidence of the original 1189 church.

Walton Church remains a consecrated building, and is used for weddings, baptisms and funerals. The grave of the University's first Secretary 'Chris' Christodoulou is near the church porch. The church is used for a variety of purposes and the University's Christian Forum holds services here three times a year.